

Nov. 27, 2018

## WORLD AIDS DAY HEALTH FAIR AND TESTING EVENT ON DEC. 1



**Contact:**

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**Pensacola, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County will co-host the 2018 World AIDS Day Health Fair and Testing Event on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 12-4 p.m. CST at Brent Raiders Football Field, 501 Yoakum Court. Each year, World AIDS Day provides a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The event will feature free HIV testing, live entertainment, food and refreshments, and giveaways for those who get tested. This year's local theme is "Respect yourself. Respect the ones you love."

The CDC estimates that 1.2 million people in the US are living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. One in seven are unaware of their HIV infection.

In the 10 years from 2008 to 2017, AIDS diagnoses in Escambia County, Florida have decreased by 55 percent, but the fight is far from over. In 2017, there were 1,397 persons living with HIV or AIDS in Escambia County.

"Unfortunately, the numbers do not account for those unaware of their infection, which is why routine testing and prevention strategies are so important," said Area 1 HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, Debbie Carty.

CDC recommends all adolescents and adults (ages 13–64) should be tested for HIV at least once during their lifetime. Persons at increased risk for HIV should be tested annually.

Learn more about [HIV prevention strategies](#) and [Florida's plan to eliminate HIV transmission and reduce HIV-related deaths](#). For more event information, call 850-595-6500, ext. 1500 or 1503.

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### About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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